Charter School Application Process

Charter Schools Program
Office of School Transformation
Division of Innovation and Effectiveness

November 9, 2015



2016 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- A Letter of Intent must be submitted at least 90 days prior to submitting an application to the proposed sponsor **and** the SCDE. **November 3, 2015**
- Completed application packet by **February 1, 2016** for charter schools that plan to open for the 2017–18 school year.
- Applications received *after* the deadline <u>will not</u> be considered for a 2017–18 opening.
- Applications must be submitted to the charter's proposed sponsor and a copy to the SCDE.

2016 Application Deadlines and Submission Procedures

- Applicant shall notify the local delegation of the county which the proposed charter is to be located.
- Only applications that are <u>complete</u> and follow the provided guidelines will be considered.
- Applicants may amend applications after submission if the sponsor determines that an application does not meet one or more of the standards and it may request clarifying information from the applicant prior to or during the hearing. The sponsor has the authority to incorporate this clarifying information into the application.
- Applicants should verify with their proposed sponsor whether this submission should be an electronic or paper copy.

2016 Application Review and Selection Process

- Within 90 days of receiving a completed application, the sponsor will review and rule on the application in a public hearing.
- If there is no ruling within 90 days, the application is considered approved.
- Once approved, the charter school may open at the beginning of the following year.

2016 Application Review and Selection Process

- A sponsor shall deny an application only if the application:
 - does not meet the requirements specified in 59-40-50 or 59-40-60,
 - fails to meet spirit and intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1996,
 - adversely affects the other students in the district in which the charter school is to be located, or
 - fails to demonstrate a substantial capacity to establish a viable school.
- Within 10 days, a written explanation of the reasons for denial must be sent to the charter committee and filed with the SCDE

2016 Application Approval **Process**

Charter School Application Process

Revised 10/26/15

An applicant shall submit a letter of intent at least (90) ninety days before submitting an application to the board of trustees or area commission from which it is seeking sponsorship and a copy to the South Carolina Department of Education.



Application is submitted to charter sponsor and a copy to the SCDE Charter Schools Office. Applications are due on February 1, 2016. The sponsor shall rule on the application for a charter school in a public hearing, upon reasonable public notice, within (90) ninery days after receiving the application. The sponsor may request clarifying or additional information from the applicant during the review. (90) ninety days

The applicant shall notify the local delegation of a county in which a proposed charter school is to be located upon receipt submission of a charter school application and also shall provide a copy of the charter school application upon request by a member of the local delegation.



The sponsor approves the charter school application. (A local school board may appeal a decision of the SCPCSD based upon adverse impact as defined by SBE Regulation 43-601)



APPROVED CHARTER SCHOOL PREPARES TO OPEN THE FOLLOWING YEAR

Before a charter school may open, the State Department of Education shall verify the accuracy of the financial data for the school within (45) forty-five days after approval.

The sponsor denies the application and provides a written explanation of the reason(s). (10) ten days



A final decision of the sponsor may be appealed by any party to the Administrative Law Court as provided in Sections 1-23-380(B) and 1-23-600(D).



Applicant appeals to ALC (45) forty-five days ALC hears the appeal. (TBD) ALC issues a final written order. (TBD)



ALC reverses sponsor's decision



Application process ended.

"TBD" is listed with certain parts of the ALC process because

the time frame is determined by ALC rules for submission of documents and ALC case load.